

The Bureau of Water provides technical assistance and a variety of outreach programs to the regulated community, water professionals and the public. These programs have been designed to promote education and understanding of issues concerning South Carolina's precious water resources. The programs fall into three basic areas of education: learning about the environment; taking responsibility for protecting and enhancing the environment; and award and recognition for improving South Carolina's environment.

.....

Runoff Pollution Education

The Runoff Pollution (*Nonpoint Source*) program provides information and resources on nonpoint source water pollution issues. Nonpoint source water pollution is polluted runoff water. It occurs when rainfall or irrigation water picks up contaminants as it flows over the ground and carries them to surface or groundwaters. Resources, presentations and demonstrations using an interactive watershed model are available. A quarterly newsletter, *Turning the Tide*, focuses on current nonpoint source programs and issues. It is available for professionals and the public. For more information call Anne Marie Johnson at (803) 898-4187.



South Carolina Water Watch

South Carolina Water Watch is a unique effort to involve the public and local communities in water quality protection. The Water Watch program was developed to encourage South Carolina's citizens to become stewards of the state's lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and wetlands. Volunteers select a water resource on which to focus and perform one or more activities aimed at protecting water quality. Activities include conducting shoreline surveys, litter cleanups, storm drain stenciling, macroinvertebrate surveys and many more. Individuals and groups of all ages are encouraged to participate. For more information call Kim Gundler at (803) 898-4211.



Champions of the Environment

Champions of the Environment is a student recognition program that encourages environmental involvement and awareness. Nationally recognized for its innovative approach to environmental education, the program promotes hands-on learning by recognizing students working on exemplary environmental projects beyond the usual realm of the classroom. With scholarships and media coverage, Champions of the Environment encourages student initiative and self-esteem.

The program promotes environmental awareness, leadership, conservation, creativity and self-confidence through activities such as group projects, public speaking and environmental research. Champions of the Environment is jointly sponsored by DuPont, International Paper, WIS-TV and DHEC. For more information call Merritt Kearns at (803) 898-4394.

Drinking Water Education

The Drinking Water Education program provides the public and drinking water professionals in South Carolina with information and technical assistance concerning drinking water issues. Available programs include school presentations for community groups and a variety of free literature. For more information call (803) 898-4300.



SCORE

The Small Community Outreach and Education (*SCORE*) program is a national information and technical assistance effort designed to help small communities serving a population of 10,000 or less build and maintain self-sufficient wastewater facilities. Activities at the state-level include identification and dissemination of information that can assist municipalities in routine operation and maintenance duties. Additionally, annual seminars are conducted with a variety of topics pertaining to small wastewater system operation. For more information call Carol Roberts at (803) 898-3542.

Wetlands Education

Wetlands make up about 23.4 percent of the state's land surface. In addition to being the most productive ecosystem on the North American continent, wetlands have multiple and diverse functions. These functions include improving water quality, providing flood protection, recharging groundwater, providing recreational opportunities and serving as valuable wildlife habitat. The growing awareness of the importance and value of this natural resource has led to legislative protection and restoration proposals across the country. We have to find a balance between "using and abusing" wetlands. For more information call Quinton Epps at (803) 898-4249.

.....

Other environmental outreach programs at SC DHEC:

Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow curriculum supplement
(SC DOE endorsed, for primary and secondary teachers of science) (800) 768-7348

Air Quality (803) 898-4382

Educational Resources Center
(literature, videos) (803) 898-3804

Ocean & Coastal Resource Management (843) 744-5838 ext. 105

Recycling (800) 768-7348



Visit our Web site
www.state-sc.us/dhec/eqc/water

Environmental Outreach



BUREAU OF WATER

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control